

**FARMCITY ALLIANCE**  
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April 7, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Docket #98N-1038  
Irradiation in the production, processing and handling of food

Dear FDA:

The FarmCity Alliance, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving farmland and farming in Washington state, supports the prominent labeling of irradiated foods. Irradiation of foods can change their texture, taste, storage characteristics and nutrients. Consumers must have "full disclosure" of whether foods have been irradiated, in order to make informed food choices for themselves and their families, based on facts about the food they buy.

FDA should retain the current labeling law requiring "treated with radiation" or "treated by irradiation" and the use of the radura symbol on all irradiated foods. The radura is a recognized, understandable symbol in any language. The label should be displayed prominently on the front of the package, and should be large enough to be seen easily by those who may have comprehension problems, such persons suffering from AIDS. For unpackaged foods, the information should be displayed in plain view next to the product. The requirement for label and radura disclosure should not expire, since the food will still be treated, and consumers have a right to know whether this process has been used on the foods they eat.

Yours truly,

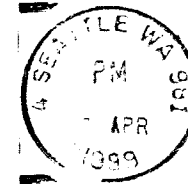


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